

Written comments in support of House Joint Resolution No. 1 Introduced by Representative Mike Milburn  
Tuesday – January 11, 2011 at 3:00 pm - Room 152.

Chairman, Representative Ted Washburn and members of the House Fish, Wildlife and Parks committee, my name is Richard E. Grady, a private citizen, at 9312 Lincoln Road West – Canyon Creek Montana, located 25 miles Northwest of Helena. I am submitting written comments in support of House Joint Resolution No. 1 introduced by Representative Mike Milburn.

My family has a ranching operation that has been owned by 3 generations and has been part of the Canyon Creek community since the early 1900's. The two family ranches have classified timber lands of approximately 6000 acres consisting of a mixture of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Douglas Fir, and Lodge pole Pine. It has been harvested for pulp, post and poles, firewood, along with saw logs the past 40 years and is impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce Budworm. It is also part of a conservation easement with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It provides to the public access under block management and the terms of the conservation easement with Fish, Wildlife and Parks, access for hunting of Elk and Deer.

Over the past 3 years I have noticed a change in the behavior pattern of the Elk and Deer populations starting around early August as they bunch up in the open foothills. We have worked with the government trapper who have killed or transplant problem wolves around the ranch and also on the Sieben Ranch property adjacent to my family.

This past summer a neighbor had some sheep killed from a female wolf that had a collar that indicated she was located from Wyoming. The female wolf was located and killed along with one of her pups by the government trapper on the Sieben Ranch. An indication that this predator has no defined boundaries and what we will see in the future as the wolf population will increase.

The recent decision by US Federal District Judge Donald Molley regarding the hunting of wolves in Montana, has taken away the ability of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to work with landowners, sportsman and women; and the agriculture industry to manage the wolf population in the State and the Endanger Species Act.

Also recent news articles indicate that environmental groups want to expand the wolf population throughout the western United States. The relationship between Idaho, Wyoming and Montana to coordinate the management of the wolves has resulted in nothing will be done in the future.

On Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the jobs listening session, the legislature heard testimony from the agriculture industry of cattle and sheep, how the management of their operations has had to change and adapt within the current wolf populations in Montana. The number of elk and deer in some of the hunting districts in the state are changing with the increase of the wolf population.

The passage of House Joint Resolution No 1 will help continue the communication dialogue and discussion that is needed with our Montana Congressional Delegation, to work with the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Secretary of the Interior and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the President of the United States.

Thank –you for the opportunity as a private citizen to testify before the committee today.

/s/ *Richard E. Grady*  
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